

Controlling Undesirable Species

Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University Outreach and Extension – The School of Natural Resources

NON-NATIVE SPECIES DEGRADE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

PURPOSE:

Many non-native and some native plants can be a serious threat to natural communities. Undesirable plants may be aggressive, especially on disturbed ground, and can quickly spread, displacing native and other desirable plants. If left unchecked, these invasive plants can overtake entire native plant communities. Undesirable non-native and some native plants include: sericia lespedeza, birds foot trefoil, crown vetch, kudzu, teasel, Canada, bull and musk thistle, purple loosestrife, tall fescue, brome, reed canary grass, Japanese honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle, sweet clover, Old World Bluestems, Siberian elm, wintercreeper, Russian olive, honey locust, Eastern red cedar and autumn olive.

Early detection is the key to eradicating an invasive plant from a site. Control can be difficult once a population becomes established. Repeat treatments, sometimes annually for several years, may be necessary to eradicate an invasive plant from an area. Herbicide applications are the most effective way to eradicate a plant from a site. Other effective control methods include prescribed burning, mowing, and managed grazing.



Sericia lespedeza is an invasive plant from Asia that is a serious threat to native plant communities. Multiple herbicide applications may be necessary to control sericia lespedeza.

SPECIFICATIONS:

The following undesirable plants should be controlled using the indicated treatment methods.

FIELD	SPECIE TO BE CONTROLLED	ACRES	TREATMENT METHOD (grazing, prescribed burn, chemical, mowing)	TREATMENT DATE

MAINTENANCE:

- ☐ If herbicides are used follow label rates and directions.
- ☐ Multiple treatments may be necessary to eradicate a population from an area. Infested fields should be scouted annually to treat plants as they recolonize the field.
- ☐ In large fields a grid system should be used to scout for patches of invasive plants.
- ☐ Minimize herbicide applications in high quality natural communities. Use spot treatments instead of a broadcast treatment to limit the impact on desirable native vegetation.
- ☐ Consider alternative methods such as prescribed burning, light disking, mowing or grazing to weaken populations. Rarely can alternative methods alone eradicate an invasive plant from a site.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

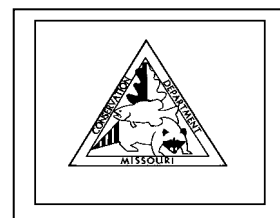
- Restore natural communities.
- Eradicate unwanted plants from desired vegetation.

Consult with NRCS or MDC wildlife biologists or foresters for recommendations on more complex sites. Contact your University Outreach and Extension Center for additional information on wildlife management. Additional information on undesirable species control can be found in this MDC publication – “Missouri Vegetation Management Manual” or at this MDC website - <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/vegman/>

COMMENTS

Landowner: _____ Farm No. _____ Tract No. _____
Field No. _____

CONTACT:



DATE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.